THE MANITOBA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
LA COMMISSION DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU MANITOBA

connections

Equality of Opportunity and Freedom from Discrimination

Repair the Erosion of Human Rights

CHRC Media Release: October 20, 2015

Marie-Claude Landry, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, congratulates Prime Minister designate Justin Trudeau along with all members of Canada's new Parliament, and issues the following statement:

"I call on our newly elected Parliament to begin repairing the erosion of human rights in Canada, and to move swiftly to repeal legislation and reverse policies that promote discrimination and prejudice. No one should live in fear because of who they are or because they have a belief that is not shared by the majority.

"Specifically, Parliament should:

•rewrite and rename the Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act, to remove any insinuation that certain religions are a threat to Canadian society;

•accelerate the process for bringing in refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war, persecution and environmental devastation, and ensure that the selection process is not discriminatory;

•ensure that the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of thousands of undocumented people seeking asylum in Canada, many of whom are suffering from mental illness, is brought to an end;

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MHRC to Deliver Harassment Seminar in Thompson

The Commission is hosting a Harassment in the Workplace Seminar in Thompson that will benefit employers, supervisors, managers and those working in human resources.

Facilitator Pam Roberts says, "The response from participants who attended the "Business of Human Rights" seminar early this year was terrific. They asked for more seminars and we are happy to be back in Thompson to deliver the next in the series."

The seminar will be held on November 24, 2015 from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. To register and for complete details, contact pam.roberts@gov.mb.ca or call 204 726-6262.

The Rights Connection

Service Animal Project Concludes

By Azim Jiwa - Executive Director

Thanks to all who participated in the 2014 service animal consultations. They provided the Commission with a greater understanding of the issues from various perspectives.

Since the consultations, the Commission has responded to the key themes that emerged. It has updated its policy on service animals to reflect the changing role of service animals, particularly those that assist persons with invisible disabilities. Publications are also now available on our website to assist schools, employers, restaurant and hotel owners, landlords, etc with issues that relate to right of access for service animals and their users.

The Commission continues to include information about service animals in its presentations and will offer "Coffee Chats" in 2016 to discuss emerging service animal issues.

A service animal working group, co-chaired by Joy Cramer, Deputy Minister of Family Services and Bill McDonald (Community Member) has also been created. The Commission will participate in this group which will continue to identify strategies to reduce barriers for those who rely on service animals.

My sincere thanks goes to participants and staff, Board Members and our consultation facilitator for their dedication and work surrounding the consultations, the report, and the implementation of the recommendations. This work has advanced the dialogue and will increase understanding to help remove the barriers users of service animals face.

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•immediately convene a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, and develop a national action plan;

•ensure that all people in Canada have access to safe drinking water and adequate housing;

•end the inequitable funding of child welfare services and schools on First Nations reserves;

•amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to explicitly protect transgender people from discrimination;

•stop the overuse of prolonged periods of solitary confinement to manage offenders, a practice disproportionally applied to Black and Aboriginal inmates, and offenders with mental illness; and

•protect the rights of all women to express their religion.

"Canadians have rejected the divisive rhetoric that became prominent in the latter days of the election campaign. Difficult as it was, the Canadian Human Rights Commission remained silent in deference to the electoral process. With the election now behind us, it's time for all Canadians to work together to restore the values of mutual respect and dignity that have for so long defined this country. My Canada includes everyone."

"My Canada includes everyone."

Coffee Chat: No Dogs Allowed?

Before you tell someone animals aren't allowed, you should be considering whether or not the animal is a service animal. Service animals are granted an immediate right to access, meaning they are allowed wherever their handler goes. Today, service animals are trained to meet many needs relating to disabilities - many of them invisible.

How is the role of the service animal evolving? What does this mean for schools? Businesses? Restaurants? Landlords?

Join the Commission for a Coffee Chat on January 20 (Brandon) or January 21 (Winnipeg) from 9:00 - 10:30, to talk about emerging issues.

To register for either free session, please contact:

hrc@gov.mb.ca.

Did you know?

Transgender Day of Remembrance will be recognized on November 20, 2015 to remember, mourn, and honour the lives of people who have died because of their gender identity and/or expression.

This is being recognized in Winnipeg at "The Hive", University of Winnipeg from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

In Brandon, there is a memorial service at Knox United Church from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm and an outdoor vigil at Park Community Centre from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

For more information:
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Brandon: 341-340 Ninth Street, Brandon, MB R7A 6C2
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